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that the volume is confined to sketches of living people, and does not include biographies of the pioneers who have passed away.

If the reader is looking for a detailed, connected account of the settlement and development of these two counties, he will be disappointed. If he expects to find a county history of the familiar commercial type, he will be satisfied. In typography, binding, and general make-up the volumes are superior to the general run of works of this character.

CHARLES B. KUHLMANN

*Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota* (The University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 3). By EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON, PH.D., professor of economics in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. v, 306 p.)

Some years ago Professor Robinson, with the assistance of some of his students in the University of Minnesota, began the preparation of a statistical atlas designed to illustrate the development of agriculture in Minnesota. As the work progressed, however, it seemed desirable to include an interpretation of the facts thus presented in graphic form, and the result is an excellent monograph with a profusion of valuable maps, charts, and tables, and a statistical appendix.

The first chapter, which presents the physiographic background, and the second, dealing with explorations and the beginnings of trade and transportation, are of general interest. These chapters are illustrated by a valuable series of maps showing drainage basins, elevations, forest areas, weather conditions, water routes, military roads, and early railroads. The remainder of the work traces the agricultural development of the state through the periods of pioneer agriculture, 1836-60, specialized wheat farming, 1860-80, and diversified farming, 1880-1900, with a final chapter on recent tendencies. The principal reliance throughout is upon statistics, and the returns of the United States census are carefully analyzed for each decennial period. The figures themselves are given in detail either in text tables or in the appendix, and their significance is brought out graphically

by means of the diagrams and maps. Thus for each census date there are maps depicting, by the dot system, the distribution of population, of the production of different crops, of the various kinds of farm animals, and of the total value of farm products. In each of these maps the county is the unit, and the preface indicates that some difficulty was experienced in determining just what were the county boundaries at the given dates. Taken as a whole, the maps present a moving picture of the progress of population and agricultural development in Minnesota.

Sources of information are clearly indicated in footnotes, and there is a "Bibliographic Note" listing about two hundred items and intended to serve "merely as a guide to some of the more important and readily accessible materials bearing on the economic development of the State." The usefulness of this bibliography would have been greatly enhanced by annotations indicating the character and value of the different works. Unfortunately no index is provided, an omission which is only slightly compensated for by the very elaborate analytical contents table.

A comparison of some of the maps discloses discrepancies which a careful checking of the work should have eliminated. Thus the population maps on pages 46 and 47 would indicate that a number of counties, notably Pembina, had a larger "country" than "rural" population in 1860, although the latter includes the former, and the inhabitants of villages with less than 2,500 population as well. Again, on one of these two maps, the dots for Brown County are all grouped at the eastern end of the county, probably to indicate the part which was settled, while on the other map they are scattered over the whole area. The same system should have been used in both maps. The format of the book is unfortunate. Doubtless the oversize pages are necessary for clearness in the maps, but the text should have been arranged in double columns, for the long lines of ten-point print make very difficult reading. All these are minor matters, however, and students of Minnesota history and economics have cause to be grateful to Professor Robinson, whose career was recently closed by death, to his assistants, and to the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, which supplied the funds for the prosecution of the work and for its publication.

SOLON J. BUCK